Prices of essential and life saving drugs

666. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of increase in the prices of essential and life saving drugs since July, 1991; till-date;

(b) up to what extent the Drug Price Control Order meant to regulate the prices of essential and life saving medicines has been able to fulfil the objective;

(c) whether Government have made any exercise to know how for the objective of custom duty concessions on production of drugs meant to be passed on to the consumer has been fulfilled; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) In a situation of rising costs of inputs, some increase in the prices of medicines is inevitable. Prices of about 200 formulations have been revised since July, 1991, break up in terms of percentage increase, is given below:—

%age increase	Number of formulations
0—10%	94
10—20%	64
More than 20%	39

(b) The prices of scheduled formulations are fixed under DPCO, 1987, in accordance with a formula and fixed norms. Before fixing/revising prices, recommendations of BICP, an expert body on industrial costs & pricing, are obtained & considered. This keeps the price level of essential medicines within reasonable limit.

(c) and (d) The purpose of giving customs duty concessions on drug intermediates is to encourage manufacture of bulk drugs from more basic stage. Impact of custom duty concessions on production of drugs and pharmaceuticals, however, is not monitored.

Losses by Naphtha based, coal based and gas based fertilizer corporation

667. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up three gas based medium size fertilizer plants, if so, the details in this regard and the investment likely to be made;

(b) what are the Naphtha based coal based and gas based fertilizer Corporations in the public sector which are incurring losses;

(c) what measures have been taken or are proposed to be taken to minimise the losses; and

(d) whether these are proposed to be transferred to the private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) No, Sir. Currently, natural gas is available for setting up only one medium sized ammonia (450 MT per day) and urea (750 MT per day) plant in the Krishna Godavari basin (Andhra Pradesh), for which some applications have been received. The applicants have been asked to furnish full details.

(b) The details of the naphtha based, coal based and gas based fertilizer units/